

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) A piston ring according to Claim [[1]] 17, wherein the piston ring is disposed in a ring groove of a piston having a plurality of boundaries.
3. (Currently amended) A piston ring according to Claim [[1]] 17, wherein said outer peripheral face contacts a wall of a surrounding cylinder at said edge.
4. (Original) A piston ring according to Claim 3, wherein a gap is defined between said outer peripheral face and the surrounding cylinder wall.
5. (Original) A piston ring according to Claim 4, wherein said projection generally minimizes said gap between said outer peripheral face and the wall of the cylinder.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently amended) A piston ring according to Claim [[1]] 17, wherein said projection is generally rectangular and includes an outer surface.

9. (Previously presented) A piston ring according to Claim 8, wherein said outer surface of said generally rectangular projection is substantially parallel to a wall of a surrounding cylinder.

10. (Previously presented) A piston ring according to Claim 8, wherein said rectangular projection defines a ledge extending radially from said outer peripheral face.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A piston ring according to Claim ~~[[11]]~~ 18, wherein said projection is generally rectangular.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A piston ring according to Claim ~~[[11]]~~ 18, wherein said projection includes an outer surface substantially parallel to the wall of the cylinder.

15. (Currently amended) A piston ring according to Claim ~~[[11]]~~ 18, wherein said projection defines a ledge extending radially from said outer peripheral face.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) A piston ring for use with an internal combustion engine and a piston having a groove, the piston ring comprising:

a generally annular body including an upper surface, a lower surface, and an outer peripheral face, the lower surface including a generally hook-shaped groove, the outer peripheral face tapering radially outwardly to intersect with the lower surface to define an edge, and the outer peripheral face including a projection extending radially outwardly from the outer peripheral face;

wherein the edge defined by the intersection of the outer peripheral face and the lower surface extends radially outwardly farther than the projection.

18. (New) A piston ring disposed in a ring groove of a piston and surrounded by a wall of a cylinder for use with a combustion chamber, the piston ring comprising:

a generally annular body having generally parallel upper and lower surfaces disposed between inner and outer peripheral faces, the outer peripheral face being generally tapered to an edge such that the edge contacts the wall of the cylinder and defining a gap between the outer peripheral face and the wall; and

a projection extending radially outwardly from the outer peripheral face to reduce the gap between the outer peripheral face and the wall, the projection thereby reducing exposure of the outer peripheral face to the combustion chamber, the lower surface further including a generally hook-shaped groove and the intersection of the generally hook-shaped groove and the outer peripheral face defining the edge, wherein the edge extends radially outwardly farther than the projection.